

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Oct 2, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Mandatory Security Awareness training Oct. 6 and 8

The 902nd Counter Intelligence Group and the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff will be conducting briefings in conjunction with Security Awareness Month to raise awareness of security issues and to promote best practices. The optional Security Awareness training for APG employees is on a first-come, first-served basis 1 to 4 p.m., Oct. 6, at the Edgewood Area Conference Center, building E-4810 and 9 to noon, Oct. 8 in the Post Theater, building 3245.

Those employees who have not completed their annual mandatory training for fiscal year 2008 should visit the APG intranet site under APG eLearning Modules section: <https://apg2gag-intra.apg.army.mil/apg> and complete the annual requirement.

Security Awareness is everyone's first line of defense. Security Awareness Month offers resources, information and tips on how to improve the awareness in your organization.

For more information, call Pete Leon Guerrero, 410-278-7401.

Notice of possible noise conditions

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground plans to conduct training exercises that will include several large detonations in the Edgewood Area which are likely to generate sound and/or vibration outside the installation boundaries.

The detonations are scheduled through Oct. 4.

If weather conditions are not favorable, firing will be rescheduled.

Questions should be directed to 410-278-1147 or 800-688-8705.

RAB meeting tonight

The Installation Restoration Program will hold

See **SHORTS**, page 7

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Visiting the 9-11 Memorial

Page 3

Air Force celebrates 61 years

Page 4

'Jabbin' with Janelle teaches safety to APG children

Page 5

Health Notes

Page 6

Community Notes

Page 9

Veteran's Voices: Veteran of 3 wars receives MDNG Medal for Valor

Page 10

APG Outdoor Journal

USAOC&S hosts 9-11 ceremony for fallen ordnance personnel

Photo by ROGER TEEL, USAOC&S Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Eubanks, left, and Brig. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar, commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools, render a salute to 33 ordnance personnel who fell in the 9-11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon during the schools' 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony on Ordnance Circle Sept. 11. The memorial -- combat boots, an upright M-16 rifle and Kevlar helmet -- was adorned with the dogtags of the fallen which school members draped on the weapon as each fallen's name was called. A bagpiper played an airy dirge in the distance, ending with "Amazing Grace." Following a 21-gun salute, the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band sounded retreat before the colors rose from half mast and lowered in retreat. See more photos on page 2.



Everyone invited to opening ceremony for 2008 CFC

APG CFC Office

Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel are invited to the opening event for the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign 9 to 10 a.m., Sept. 29, at the Post Theater, building 3245. The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band Woodwind Quintet will be performing. There will be information booths from Army Community Service and Big Brothers/Sisters of Central Maryland, and cake will be served.

The APG CFC Fund hopes to exceed \$400,000 in donations from more than 2,000 donors through Dec. 15.

Last year APG raised \$441,743.66.

The overall goal for Central Maryland remains the same as last year - \$6.2 million.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Light the Way."

Federal employees can make donations by check, cash or payroll deduction. Retirees, Reservists and contractors are permitted to donate to CFC by cash or check only. Although key workers cannot solicit contractor employees working at APG, contractors are permitted to contribute to

the CFC by cash or check.

Individuals outside the installation may donate contributions. Incentives will be determined at a later date. Married couples are permitted to combine their donations if they would like to receive an upgrade incentive.

Every APG tenant is now required to provide one campaign coordinator name and key workers' names (one key worker per 20 employees according to AR 600-29) to the APG CFC Office. All CFC key coordinators and key workers will be required to remain following the cake cutting on Sept. 29 for their annual CFC training, 10 to 11 a.m.

The 2008 Contributor's Guide for national/international organizations is at Web site <http://www.cbacfc.org>. Paper copies of the guide and pledge cards will be available from each organization key worker and at the APG CFC office beginning Sept. 29.

For more information, visit the APG CFC office, building 30, Top of the Bay, room "Down Under" or call Administrative Support, 410-278-9913.

Client Services Division announces new hours for services Oct. 1

Story by **SANDI WILLIAMS** OSJA

The Client Services Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, is a consolidated legal office offering free legal assistance, personal income tax and claims services to qualifying individuals.

The office is located on Susquehanna Avenue, building 4305 (Janet Barr Soldier Support Center), third floor, room 346.

Operating hours

Effective Oct. 1, the division will provide service on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The office will be closed for federal holidays and inclement weather.

Eligibility of services

All active component members of the armed forces of the United States, retirees and their Family members, are eligible for services.

Reserve component service members who are not mobilized are not eligible for services and should

contact their individual units for assistance (some exceptions apply). Valid military identification must be presented for services. To determine status for eligibility, call the office, 410-278-1583.

Legal services

The staff is available to counsel and assist clients with legal issues such as divorce, separation, landlord tenant disputes, estate planning, debtor and consumer disputes, Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, etc.

All services are provided free of charge and consultations with attorneys are completely confidential.

Attorneys may not assist with in-court representation, private business concerns, civilian employment and most criminal matters.

Most powers of attorney and notary services are provided by the paralegal staff during hours of operation and do not require an appointment. The office's civilian notaries cannot notarize most real estate closing documents.

Attorney consultations are provided by appointment only except Tuesday

mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. when clients may walk in without an appointment. The Tuesday morning walk in service is provided on a space available first-come, first-serve basis. Recommended arrival time is 8 a.m.

All estate planning services (wills) are by appointment only on Wednesdays and require two separate appointments.

Claims services

The Claims Office processes and asserts a variety of claims for loss or damage to property to include: damage to Soldier's household goods during shipment, barracks thefts and intentional damage caused by one Soldier to another Soldier's property.

The Claims Office is also now processing certain claims for reimbursement for home sale or purchase closing cost expenses incident to a civilian employee's permanent change of station. Claimants who have damaged household goods and who do not wish to file directly with the car-

See **LEGAL**, page 5



TRAFFIC ALERT

APG closes Route 24 Gate

Aberdeen Proving Ground will close the Route 24 (Hoadley Road) Gate 11 p.m., Oct. 4 to make necessary upgrades and expansions in preparation for the base realignment and closure, or BRAC.

The gate will remain closed until the summer of 2009.

The Magnolia Road Gate on Route 152 will open at 11 p.m., Oct. 4 and will operate as the main gate to the Edgewood Area of APG.

It will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays. It will be the only gate open to visitors and commercial vehicles.

The operating hours for the Wise Road Gate on Route 755 will remain the same, 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and closed on weekends and holidays.

Only vehicles with government and RapidGate identification will be permitted to use the Wise Road gate.

APG drivers are asked to avoid detouring through the residential neighborhoods along Edgewood Road as many children in those neighborhoods walk to school, and the increased traffic creates a safety hazard for those children.

APG leaders appreciate the continued patience of drivers on the installation as construction projects continue.

Magnolia Road, west of Stokes Road, is closed to all traffic because of construction and will remain closed in order to facilitate the new traffic pattern for the Magnolia Gate.

In support of this, Atkisson Road is closed from Magnolia Road to Lagoon Road. Traffic to/from the 5800 and 5900 areas will be detoured from Atkisson Road and Magnolia Road via Stokes Road and 40th Street.

Additionally, the access road serving the E-5777 complex will be designated for two-way traffic during this time. For more information, call Capt. Nicholas Stamos, Aberdeen Proving Ground Police, 410-436-2021.

Golf Course entrance now open

The new Ruggles Golf Course entrance road opened Sept. 24. Concurrent with the new opening, the old access road has been closed and removed.

The new access road entrance is located west of the current golf course entrance and just inside the traffic serpentine at the existing gate.

Signs are posted identifying the new entrance.

The speed limit on the new access roadway is 25 mph; however lower speeds may be prudent due to the ongoing construction.

Of particular note is the lane narrowing of the new road due to an electrical pole that cannot be moved until the new electrical services are completed. Jersey barriers will be used to direct traffic around the pole.

These obstructions will be removed and the full roadway width restored immediately upon completion of the electrical work within the next few weeks.

Employees are asked to allow extra time in the morning to travel to work and practice caution and courtesy as APG transforms for the future.

For more information, call 410-278-1147, 410-278-1153 or 800-688-8705.

Family members, survivors remember at Pentagon's 9-11 Memorial Aug. 28

Story and photo by
GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

A group of Family members, survivors and first responders shared their thoughts about 9-11 while visiting the nearly completed Pentagon Memorial Aug. 28.

Tom Heidenberger, 62, lost his wife, Michele, when American Airlines Flight 77 plunged into the Pentagon's west wall on Sept. 11, 2001. Michele was the senior flight attendant aboard Flight 77, said Heidenberger, a former commercial airline pilot who lives in Chevy Chase, Md.

Heidenberger recalled that his wife had called him at home in the morning from Dulles International Airport before her flight departed for the West Coast.

"My last words to her were 'Have a safe trip, and I'll talk to you when you get to Los Angeles,'" Heidenberger said.

Heidenberger said he and his 21-year-old son, Thomas, had visited the memorial together two weeks ago. The memorial "gives us all a sense of closure," he added.

Located just outside the Pentagon, the memorial park features 184 granite-topped, stainless-steel "sculptural elements" that represent the 125 lives lost in the Pentagon and the 59 deaths aboard American Airlines Flight 77. Each element has a reflecting pool of water at its base, which is flood-lit in the evening. The Families of the attack



Tom Heidenberger poses within the Pentagon Memorial Aug. 28. Heidenberger lost his wife, Michele, when terrorist-hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 plunged into the Pentagon's west wall on Sept. 11, 2001. Michele was the senior flight attendant aboard Flight 77. The memorial "gives us all a sense of closure," Heidenberger said.

victims had a hand in the memorial's design.

Pentagon civilian employees Cathy Abell, 53, and Holly Russell, 50, visited the bench-like structure that featured the name of their friend, Marian Serva, who was among those in the Pentagon who perished in the attack.

"It is peaceful, and it brings a piece of the person back to me," Abell said of the memorial. "It gives me a place where I can come

and visit with my friend whom I lost."

The memorial, Russell said, is "a nice place to come and reflect and kind of put life in perspective."

Army civilian employee John Yates recalled when the hijacked airliner struck the Pentagon nearly seven years ago.

"My offices were located about one hundred feet inside the building, right near where the dividing line was where the collapse

was," Yates said. "It was a typical day. Who would have thought anything was going to happen?"

On the morning of the attack, Yates was a civilian security manager for the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Office, which sustained a near-direct hit from the plunging airliner.

Yates was among a group of people, including Marian Serva, who worked as a congressional liaison officer in his office, who'd gathered around a television set watching news coverage from New York City after two terrorist-hijacked commercial aircraft had struck the World Trade Center's twin towers.

Yates, now age 57, vaguely recalls that the television then exploded.

"I remember seeing a ball of fire just coming over the top of my head from my left," he said. "It was an inferno."

Yates said he somehow managed to crawl below the acrid smoke to safety outside. He later discovered that four other companions standing by the television with him were killed in the blast.

The attack left Yates badly burned. Numerous skin grafts have repaired his hands, but a therapist still treats psychological scars left from the experience. Yates has since transferred to another Army agency in Arlington, Va. The memorial, he said, is "beautiful" and "very, very tastefully done."

Yates said 24 people in

his Pentagon office, including his supervisor, Army Lt. Col. Dennis Johnson, died during the 9/11 attack.

"I still have e-mails from some of them," Yates said, as his voice cracked and tears welled up in his eyes. "I can't get rid of those. ... I'll just keep them."

Arlington County Fire Department paramedic Claude Conde, 40, recalled being called to the Pentagon in response to the attack.

"We were the lead agency, so pretty much our whole department was here that day," Conde said. "We were transporting patients most of the day." Conde called 9-11 "a big surprise." He conceded he was initially scared as he approached the fiery, blasted Pentagon.

"But we're trained to put those feelings aside and [to] try to help out the best way that we can," he said.

The Pentagon Memorial, Conde observed, "is very peaceful" in contrast to the hellish scene he witnessed at the Pentagon nearly seven years ago.

"I think the memorial is very important to the victims and their Families; I think they did a good job on it," the paramedic said.

Pentagon Force Protection Agency Sgt. Isaac Hoopii recalled pulling security sweeps at the stricken building with his German shepherd bomb-detection dog, Vito, for six months after the attack. Vito, he noted, retired from duty some time ago.

Hoopii recalled that he

and his coworkers worked 48 consecutive hours to assist people who'd been injured in the attack. Later, he said, they combed the crash site area, "just making sure" that no terrorist-planted devices - meaning explosives - were about that could injure or kill more people.

"They did a wonderful job" on the Pentagon 9-11 Memorial, Hoopii said, noting it is a fitting tribute "to the people who lost their lives."

Pentagon Memorial Fund manager Jim Laychak lost his younger brother, David, an Army civilian employee, during the attack on the Pentagon.

The \$22 million memorial, Laychak said, is a culmination of years of effort and hard work.

"It is a great feeling of pride and accomplishment. Everybody has worked together on this over the past five and a half years," he said.

The Pentagon Memorial "is a special place where people can go" to remember loved ones who perished in the attack, Laychak said, noting he's grateful to friends who assisted him after the loss of his brother.

"Anybody who knew me wanted to reach out and comfort me, so I think part of it is remembering how we comforted each other after that day," Laychak said.

The memorial was officially dedicated at a Sept. 11 ceremony hosted by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates. It is now open to the public 24 hours a day.

USAOC&S remembers



Photos by ROGERTEEL, USAOC&S
The U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools' joint-service color guard retreats the colors at the end of the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony on Ordnance Circle Sept. 11.



Firemen, policemen and first responders from the local area assist military members of the school staff during the ceremony.



Sgt. George Thompson places a dogtag on the fallen Soldier memorial during the U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools' 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony on Ordnance Circle.

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation

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Air Force celebrates 61st birthday

Story and photos by
ROGER TEEL
USAOC&S

Members of Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron gathered to celebrate the U.S. Air Force's 61st birthday with a Sept. 18 retreat ceremony at Ordnance Circle.

After the ceremony, Airmen celebrated with cake and refreshments.

The Air Force is celebrating 61 years as an independent organization. After separating from the Army Air Corps in 1947, the Air Force was established on Sept. 18, 1947, when President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act.

Today, the Air Force has more than 300,000 people

and more than 5,000 aircraft.

The detachment was established in 1974, after the Air Force consolidated its machinist training with the Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Detachment 1 was established to provide support and basic operating functions for staff personnel and students.

In 1988, Rivet Workforce merged the 427X0 Machinist and 427X4 Metal Processing career fields. Because of that action, the Air Force needed to find a way to train entry-level students in all aspects of the newly established career field. Due to the career field merger, the Air Force removed the

machinist course from Army control, and developed a collocated course, which was implemented in 1990. As a prerequisite to that course, students were required to attend welding training at Chanute AFB, Illinois, and then travel to APG for their follow on training in machining.

With the base closure of Chanute imminent, it was determined that welding training would move to APG, eliminating student travel and the difficulty of first line course control from a geographically separated location.

In June 1992, the first of the welding staff moved to APG, to assist in the trans-

fer of the welding course. Between July and August, all equipment and course materials were shipped to APG. A new metalworking facility was opened in May 1995.

Currently, all welding is accomplished in the new facility.



From left, Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron Airmen Basic Joshua R. Colley, Michael J. Meaux, Danteryail Herron, Kenneth E. King, Amy K. Wollen and Coty C. Henderson, salute the flag during a retreat ceremony at Ordnance Circle to celebrate the 61st birthday of the Air Force Sept. 18.

Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron members perform retreat duties during the 61st birthday ceremony of the Air Force. From left, Airmen Basic Jacob D. Hoage and Patrick R. Mahoney, Airman First Class Jeffery C. Pittillo, Airman Corey K. Rohwer, Airman Basic Nathan A. Holland and Airman First Class Phillip J. Paulsen.

OWN the
EDGE

Leading on the Edge

SAFETY

Children learn about safety with ‘Jabbin’ with Janelle’

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

This school year, children in the Child Youth and School Services after-school program will learn about important safety topics with an ongoing program called “Jabbin’ with Janelle” aimed at middle school and school-aged students.

The first program of the school year will take place at the Edgewood Area Youth Center on Oct. 1 at 3:30 p.m. for middle school students and at 4 p.m. for school-aged students.

Janelle Ferguson, a safety & occupational health specialist from the Installation Safety Office, will be hosting “Jabbin’ with Janelle” every month at both Youth Centers with the goal to expand the program and take “Jabbin’ with Janelle” to both Child



Development Centers.

Ferguson said that she wanted to start a safety program for children that is fun, relevant, and will open the lines of communication.

Ferguson said that Renee Main, the EA Youth Center site supervisor, and Norma Warwick, EA Youth Center director, were very supportive of having a safety program at the Youth Center. Main came up with the name “Jabbin’ with Janelle” as a fun, catchy title.

Ferguson said she started weekly presentations during this year’s summer camp program at the Youth Centers. She taught

them about safety issues that were “hot topics” during the summer like pool safety, insect safety and heat stress. At the end of the presentation she gave away prizes to children who answered safety questions correctly.

Ferguson said that the sessions received positive feedback during the summer camp program, so she decided to expand the program to take place during the school year.

“Safety is an important issue,” Ferguson said. “Now that there are more dual income parents, children are staying home by themselves more frequently. Children need to know what to do during an emergency. We want to be proactive rather than reactive.”

Ferguson added that having these presentations will hopefully encourage children to talk to their parents about safety issues. She said that the presen-

tations during the school year will cover topics like playground safety, bullying and telephone safety. Internet safety and home alone safety will be covered during the Oct. 1 presentation.

Ferguson said that she is glad that she has this chance to talk to the children about safety issues.

“‘Jabbin with Janelle’ is a hit with children and instructors. Janelle’s presentations are excellent with children. They are professional [and] entertaining,” said Overton Johnson, chief, Installation Safety Office.

“The subject of safety is extremely important. It is never too early to start learning about safety. We have received numerous compliments. Kids love it, and she knows how to keep the kids attention,” he said.

For more information, call Ferguson, 410-306-1095.

Adventures in
driving
decision making

Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

“Adventures in driving decision-making” is brought to everyone by the Installation Safety Office.

Situation #2.

Imagine it’s night and you’re driving 55 mph down a country road. You come over a rise and right there in front of you is a car weaving all over the road and slowing down. You see lights ahead showing there’s an on-coming car rapidly approaching you, and there are lights in your rear view mirror showing a car behind you. What should you do?

A. Stomp on the brakes to stop, or

B. Hard brake and turn to the right off the highway.

drop of a pile of boulders on your right.

would be important to know that there was not a sharp the shoulder and the type of terrain. In this situation it way. It’s also important to be aware of the condition of you’re in. It’s not enough to be aware of only the road- important it is to be aware of the total environment you and behind you. This is a good example of how to the right can’t be any worse than what is ahead of off the highway” is a good decision. Whatever is off

Answer B. Yes, “hard brake and turn to the right answer is B.

stop.” The car behind you will run into your rear end, or, you’ll go into a skid and lose control. The correct Answer A. No, do not “stomp on your brakes to



Commentary: Stopping stigma is start of mental health

By
KELLY L. FORYS
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

If you injure your arm while performing your duties, you go to the medical treatment facility to get help. A doctor assesses your wound, provides immediate treatment, instructs you on how to care for the wound and schedules a time for you to come back so that he can reassess how you are doing.

This is an accepted procedure for obtaining help for a physical injury; however, seeking help for an emotional or mental wound, such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder is often met with stigma.

We need to ensure our response to other Soldiers, civilians or anyone who shows signs of mental or emotional pain will be one of encouraging them to get needed help, rather than perpetuating wrong or negative attitudes.

Stigma, which means “shame or disgrace,” has four components, according to the Mayo Clinic:

1. Labeling someone with a condition
2. Stereotyping people who have that condition
3. Creating separation, devaluation of the person (us vs. them) and loss of support

4. Discriminating because of their condition

Why does this stigmatizing behavior exist and persist?

The answer is as complex as the mental health condition itself. Stigma is often caused by not truly knowing what a “mental health disorder” is. Often, an individual’s only experience with a mental condition comes from a movie or television show in which the mental condition was inaccurately portrayed. Many feel that a mental condition is different from a medical or physical condition. They assume that those with a mental condition have brought it on themselves, that the condition is “all in their head” or that they are faking it to be excused from duty.

Due to lack of knowledge and understanding, people are scared to interact with someone with a mental health condition. So, they respond to that person in a defensive manner, which can involve teasing, ridicule, ostracizing and abuse. These negative behaviors indicate a lack of knowledge.

The truth is that mental conditions are not scary. They result from a complex interaction among genetics, biology and the environment, which are the same contributing factors to many chronic medical/physical conditions.

Stigma against mental health conditions is harmful to everyone. Stigma can prevent an individual with a mental health condition from seeking help. This is very dangerous because—as with a physical health condition—when treatment is sought at the first signs of a mental health condition, the condition will respond better to treatment. Treatment will be quicker and the person will return to health and duty feeling stronger and more resilient than before.

Stigma also affects the health of a unit. The time and energy spent stigmatizing the person with the mental health condition would be better spent focusing on the mission and health needs of the unit. In addition, stigma causes a division among Soldiers, which impairs the ability to successfully complete a mission.

The procedure for treatment of a mental health condition is similar to the procedure for treating a wound described at the beginning of this article.

If a Soldier is feeling depressed or has symptoms of PTSD (flashbacks, nightmares, increased startle response, etc.), he or she should go to a behavioral health professional (social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist). The health professional will assess the condition, provide immediate treatment in the form of talk therapy and/or medication, instruct the Soldier in how to care for the condition and schedule a time for a follow-up visit to reassess the condition.

Remember that the earlier the treatment, the quicker the recovery.

Stop the stigma. Encourage your friends and buddies to get help today.

Some Web sources of information about mental health are:

- Battlemind, <https://www.battlemind.army.mil/>
- Army Behavioral Health, <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/>
- Military One Source, www.militaryonesource.com
- Mayo Clinic, <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/mental-health/MH00076>

(Editor’s note: Author works as a psychologist at CHPPM)

Legal

From front page

rier under the Full Replacement Value Program and are approaching the 70-day time requirement to submit a Department of Defense (DD) Form 1840/1840R, Notice of Loss or Damage, in conjunction with delivery of household goods or claimants approaching the two-year time

requirement to submit DD Form 1842, Claim for Loss of or Damage to Personal Property Incident to Service; or Standard Form (SF) 95, Claim for Damage, Injury, or Death, must submit such claims to the Claims Office before expiration of the time requirement and during normal operating hours.

Tax Center

The Tax Center operates between January and April each year. Operating hours will be published in January. Services include federal

and state tax return preparation and electronic filing of federal tax returns.

Certain general tax services are provided on a limited basis by the Client Services Division outside the normal tax season.

For more information about the services offered, call 410-278-1583 or stop by room 346, building 4305 (Janet Barr Soldier Support Center), third floor, Susquehanna Avenue. Legal advice cannot be provided over the telephone.

Community Notes

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit Thrivent – Habitat for Humanity Build will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Bingo begins at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 each for all paper cards; extra cards cost \$5. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable for a chance on a special drawing. No smoking allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

**FRIDAY THRU
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
THRU 28
WOMEN’S
CONFERENCE**

The Women of Restoration invite everyone, women and men, to the Women’s Fall Conference located at 1812 Pulaski Highway, Starlite Plaza, Suite O, Edgewood. The conference includes seminars with Apostle Dianne

Welsh, Aberdeen’s Breath of God Christian Fellowship; Dr. Gladys Willis, Fellowship Revival Church of Love, Philadelphia; Prophetess Fern W. Johnson, Restoration World Ministries, Inc., Edgewood; Dr. Gladys Willis, Fellowship Revival Church of Love; Prophetess Fern W. Johnson, Restoration World Ministries, Inc.; Apostle Joyce Nash, Life of Worship Ministries, Baltimore. This life-changing conference is free with a love offering taken. Attend all or one seminar.

For more information, call 410-671-6042.

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 27
RUMMAGE SALE**

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 5337, 3706 Pulaski Highway in Abingdon will host a rummage sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve a table should call 410-671-6983.

**HARFORD
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL 5K
CELEBRATION RUN**
Harford Memorial Hos-

pital will hold its 12th Annual 5K Celebration Run, 8:30 a.m., rain or shine. Race day registration will be held at Harford Memorial Hospital, 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. The race will take place in front of the hospital on South Union Avenue. Walkers will follow runners on an approximately one-mile course.

The entry fee costs \$15 for pre-registration by Sept. 26 and \$20 the day of the race. Cost includes a race shirt. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded.

For more information or to receive a registration form, call Upper Chesapeake Health’s Marketing Department, 443-643-4200.

**COMMUNITY YARD
SALE**

The Havre de Grace Recreation Committee will sponsor a “Trash to Treasure Community Yard Sale,” 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Havre de Grace Activity Center located on 351 Lewis Lane. Events include pit beef, car wash and more. Spaces will be rented for \$15 for individuals and \$25 for businesses. There are no residency requirements. No rain date.

Vendors must supply their own table unless they are in the Activity Center gymnasium. A signed agreement is necessary for all vendors.

All proceeds from table rentals will benefit the HDG Drama Guild. Agreements are available at the HdG Activity Center, 410-939-6724 or online at <http://www.hdgdramatroop.com/indexrentalagreement.html>. Signed agreements, rental fees and special requests are due no later than Friday, Sept. 19. For more information, call 410-702-5914 or visit www.hdgDramaTroop.com.

**SATURDAY AND
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27
AND 28
HARVEST FESTIVAL
AT STEPPINGSTONE**

The Steppingstone Museum, located at 461 Quaker Bottom in Susquehanna State Park, Havre de Grace, will hold its annual Fall Harvest Festival and Craft Show, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Events include a craft booths, bluegrass and country music, pumpkin painting, clogging, square dancing, historical craft demonstrations, tours, and more. Free parking is available. Cost of admission is \$5 for adults; free admission for museum members and children ages 12 and under.

For more information, call 410-939-2299 or 1-888-419-1762 or visit the museum’s Web site, www.steppingstonemuseum.org.

**NATIVE AMERICAN
AUTUMN FESTIVAL**

The 26th anniversary of the Native American Autumn Festival will be celebrated at Indian

Steps Museum, 205 Indian Steps Road, Airville, Pa., Saturday, Sept. 27, noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Interpretations of drumming, singing and dancing representative of early American indigenous nations will be held both days. Vendors will be selling Native American crafts featuring bead work, jewelry, statuary and the like. Special stands will provide food and beverages to meet a wide variety of tastes. Tours of the museum will be available. There will be free parking and no admission charge, however, cash donations to the museum will be appreciated.

For more information, call 717-862-3948 or visit www.indiansteps.org.

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 28
ALL DAY BINGO**

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold All-Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Doors open 11 a.m., early bird games 11:45 a.m. and regular games begin 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes 50 games (all paper cards), meal and free coffee. A 50/50 raffle will be held for early birds. Players have a chance to win a \$300 jackpot. No one under 18 years of age is allowed in the Bingo Hall. No smoking is allowed.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

**WORLD RABIES
DAY RABIES
VACCINATIONS**

The Harford County Health Department will sponsor a Rabies Vaccination Clinic, 1 to 4 p.m., at The 4 Paws Spa located on 121 Industry Lane, Suite A, Forest Hill, Md. Veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats and ferrets at just \$5 per animal.

For more information, call William D. Wiseman, MAHE, director, Public Health Education Cancer Prevention Services Harford County Health Department, 410-612-1771, or e-mail wwiseman@dnhm.state.md.us, or call David Reiher, Environmental Health Services Division, 443-643-0315 or e-mail dreiher@dnhm.state.md.us.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4
TRACKS AND SCAT
HIKE**

Find out who has been wandering around Boseley by looking for what they left behind. This program will be held 1:30 to 3 p.m. for Families. The cost is \$5 per Family, and registration is required. For information, registration or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

(Editors Note: More Community Notes can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.)

SCHOOL LIAISON

Seminar Sept. 27

The Greater Edgewood Education Foundation presents “Finding Your Future,” 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sept. 27 at Edgewood Middle School. The fee is \$5 per Family. Visit www.geefinc.com to view topics. For more information, call Deb Merlock, president, 410-569-9789.

Virtual college fair
www.collegeweeklive.com

CollegeWeekLive, a virtual college fair is being held Nov. 12 and 13.

Anyone who is just starting the college search process, or has narrowed down their list and is looking to speak to specific schools, should take advantage of this free resource as an opportunity to attend a college fair from the comfort of a home computer.

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil.

Post Shorts

its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Sept. 25, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Aberdeen Area Study Areas.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Hispanic American Heritage Month

The APG Hispanic Heritage Committee will present National American Heritage Month, 11 a.m. to noon, Oct. 8, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Guest speaker will be Jorge Christian, a mechanical engineer with the U.S. Army RDE-COM-Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. The theme for 2008 is “Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation.”

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDE-COM, 410-436-4810; Master Sgt. Gail Brennan, OC&S, 410-278-2529; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Jones, 61st Ordnance Brigade, 410-278-4408; Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Salcedo, 410-436-4953; Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023; or Sheryl Coleman, ARL, 410-278-5964.

Army receives funds for single Strong Bonds retreats

There will be a Strong Bonds Single Soldier retreat at the Willow Valley Resort

in Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 8 through 10. Sign up now through Oct. 2 at the Main Post Chapel Office, or call 410-278-4333. Spots are filled on a first-come first-served basis. For planning purposes, more dates will be announced in a future Post Short.

Volunteers needed

The APG Equal Employment Opportunity Minority College Relations Program committee is looking for a few good committee members. The MCRP committee meets the third Thursday of each month, 2:30 to 3:30

p.m. The meetings will rotate between the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. Anyone who is interested in joining the committee and would like to find out more about MCRP, can attend the next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2:30 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

For more information, contact Rick Witherspoon, 410-278-1137.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.)

Top of the Bay usage fees

Effective Aug. 1, Top of the Bay rates for reserving rooms for luncheons or lunch meetings were issued. Prices include room setup, linen on tables and ice water. No other refreshments are included. Rooms can be reserved between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Old Baltimore Room costs \$100 for a half day, \$200 for a full day fee. Maximum capacity is 50 people.

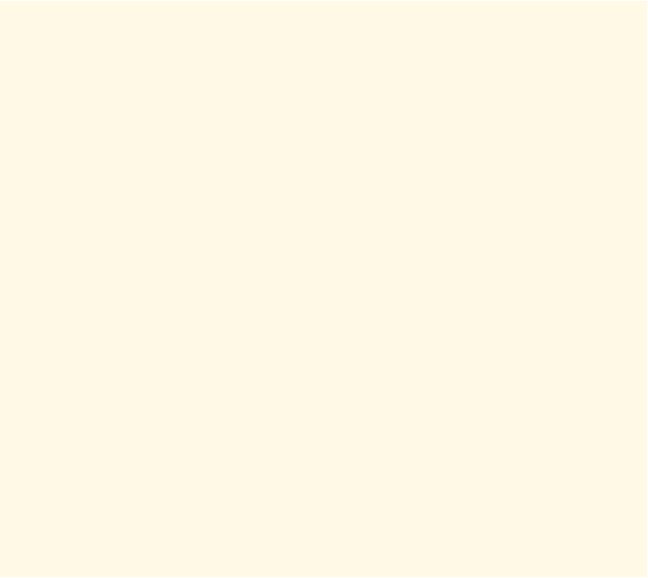
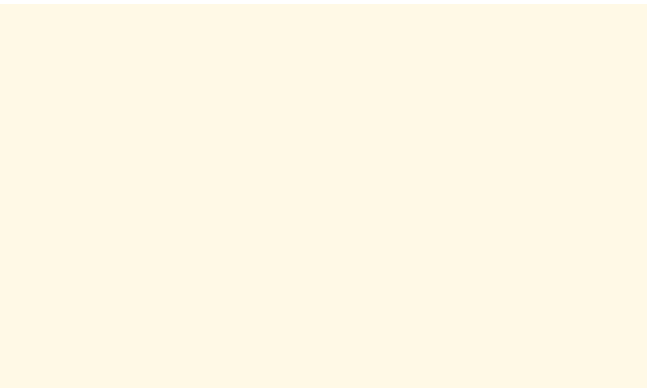
Gunpowder Lounge costs \$100 for a half day, \$200 for a full day. Maximum capacity is 50 people.

Regimental Room costs \$100 for a half day, \$200 for a full day. Maximum capacity is 50 people.

Chesapeake Mezzanine costs \$200 for a half day, \$400 for a full day. Maximum capacity is 100 people.

Main Ballroom costs \$600 for a full day. Maximum capacity is 300 people.

For more information, call Top of the Bay, 410-278-3062/2552.





FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Critically acclaimed dance company coming to APG

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will present the world renowned stepping dance group, Step Afrika, 7 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Post Theater.

Step Afrika is the first professional company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Founded in December 1994, the company is critically acclaimed for promoting an understanding of and appreciation for stepping and the dance tradition’s use as an educational tool for young

people worldwide.

“We are really lucky to be able to bring a group that is recognized internationally as being the best at what they do to Aberdeen Proving Ground,” said Earlene Allen, FMWR lead programmer. Allen said the show provides an unforgettable evening of entertainment for Families, Soldiers and students.

“This is a show you can learn from while being entertained, whether you’re a service member, Family member or high school or college student,” Allen said.

Based in Washington, D.C., the company has been featured on CNN, BET, PBS and NPR as well as in numerous books, documentaries and magazines, and it completes a 50-city tour of American colleges and universities from Maine to Mississippi, annually. In addition, Step Afrika performs regularly for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Washington Performing Arts Society, the Smithsonian Institution and in schools and community-based organizations around the world.

The company is a model for the use of stepping in educational settings, espousing themes such as teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding.

A 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, Step Afrika receives much of its support from the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and other generous donors.

The group’s 2008 schedule includes the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival; the 2008 Performing Arts Exchange, Atlanta, Ga.; Lin-

coln Center, New York City; and colleges and universities in the states of Washington, Oregon, Connecticut, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Missouri, Florida and Alabama.

This event is open to the public. Advance tickets cost \$15 for active duty military, \$20 for all others and \$25 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Leisure Travel Office, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, 410-436-7134.

Activities/Events

CWF trip to Massachusetts in November

Take a “pilgrimage” to Massachusetts for an opportunity to see American history and heritage.

The Civilian Welfare Fund has scheduled a trip to Massachusetts, Nov. 20 to 23. Tour locations include Plymouth Plantation, Salem, Rockport, Gloucester and Newport, R.I.

Passengers will depart BWI at 10:30 a.m. and arrive at Logan Airport, Boston, at 11:50 a.m.

Cost per person is \$1,275 for adult single; \$975 for adult double; \$925 for adult triple; and \$905 for adult quad. Cost for children ages 17 and under is \$945 for double, \$895 for triple and \$875 for quad.

Cost includes round-trip airfare; three nights lodging; private motorcoach for tours; three continental breakfasts; three dinners, including one lobster and clam bake and meal at Plymoth Plantation;

entrance into the Salem Witch Museum and Mayflower II replica; travel insurance and tips for the driver and guided tour manager.

For more information or to make reservations, call CWF, 410-273-2075 or e-mail Patti Harkins, patti.harkins@us.army.mil.

MWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City, N.J. FMWR Leisure Travel Services offers daily bus service to Trump Taj Mahal Casino. Cost of the trip to is \$35 per person with \$25 back in cash and a \$5 buffet coupon. Only for ages 21 and over. The bus will leave Vitali’s Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood at 9 a.m. and return at 9 p.m.

For more information, contact FMWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail apgr-usag-mwrliesuretravel@conus.army.mil.

Comedy Jam at the Post Theater

The public is invited to a Comedy Jam, Oct. 18, at the Post Theater, building 3245. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 a.m.

Comedy acts include Roy Woods Jr., Eric Meiser and Lawrence Owens.

Tickets cost \$15 for active duty military, \$20 for civilians and \$25 at the door. Attendees must be 18 years of age and older.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit FMWR Leisure Travel Services, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, 410-436-7134.

Infant/Child First Aid, CPR Class

An Infant/Child First Aid and CPR class will be held 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for ages 13 and older, Oct. 17, building 2752, Child and Youth Services administration building. The class costs \$5 per person.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil.

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., on Fridays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 12. (No class Nov. 28.) Classes will also be given 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturdays, Sept. 13 through Oct. 18 and Nov. 1 through Dec. 13. (No class Nov. 29.)

Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

Students are responsible for purchasing the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

SKIES Unlimited offers Driver’s Ed

Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Monday thru Thursday, 6 to 9:15 p.m. Classes will be held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard, room 304, Oct. 6 thru 22 (no class Oct. 13); Oct. 27 thru Nov. 12 (no class Nov. 11); Nov. 17 thru Dec. 3 (no class Nov. 27) and Dec. 8 thru 23.

Class includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

Cost is \$295 per student. Last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between 15.9 and 18 years of age. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID cardholders.



Veterans' Voices

Veteran of three wars receives MD National Guard Medal for Valor

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam was presented with the Maryland National Guard's second highest award for the military during a ceremony in Charlestown, Md., Sept. 7.

Retired Army Col. Edward S. Mehosky, who distinguished himself in battle during the Normandy invasion, was presented the award by Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez, commander of the Maryland Army National Guard and the state's assistant adjutant general.

Ivan Mehosky, the colonel's son, and former Aberdeen Proving Ground School Liaison, hosted the event. He shared the story of how he and Richard Cook, MDARNG awards program manager, labored to gather documentation for the colonel to receive the Silver Star, which was the original intent, and that the process began in 2003 while he was teaching a class on the battles of World War II at Harford Community College.

"It was from Richard that I got the idea, and it was his initiative and hard work that got the ball rolling," he said.

Cook said that after reading Ivan's book, "The Story of a Soldier," a historical biography about the colonel's military career, he realized the colonel's performance, particularly during the Normandy invasion when he rescued two Soldiers, was worthy of higher recognition.

He noted that an initial recommendation for the award was downgraded, and he informed Ivan that it should be applied for again.

"After all these years, Ivan had no idea it could be upgraded," Cook said.

He said that as an awards program manager he regularly processes retroactive



Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez, commander of the Maryland Army National Guard and the state's assistant adjutant general, presents retired Army Col. Edward S. Mehosky with the Maryland Medal of Valor during a ceremony at the Wellwood Yacht Club in Charlestown, Md., Sept. 7.

awards, including Bronze Star Medals and other combat awards for MDARNG Soldiers returning from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

The process, which began in February 2007, involved months of researching, collecting documents and asking questions, he said.

"I took it on as a personal endeavor," Cook said. "It was a total team effort."

Ultimately, the Silver Star packet included endorsements from former Maryland Congressman Wayne Gilchrest and former Maryland Adjutant General Bruce Tuxhill.

"We had everything we needed except for two eyewitness accounts, which is required," Cook said.

Lacking that, the first effort was refused, he said, and then they received word from Tuxhill that he would be happy to approve

a Medal of Valor.

"This was my first time doing this for a World War II veteran," Cook said. "We tried hard to get him the best. The bottom line is that the Family is happy. It was a total team effort, and I want to thank all the friends who contributed."

Jimenez presented retired Army Col. Edward Mehosky with the Maryland Medal of Valor as well as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation signed by President George Bush and a Cold War Certificate. In addition, he received a framed painting of the 40th Division in Korea and the Silver Star commission package that was sent to the Department of the Army from the MDARNG.

Ivan presented his father with a scrapbook of photos and mementos he col-

lected while working on "The Story of a Soldier," a shadow box filled with the patches and insignia of the units he served in during his 31-year career and a framed American flag with the medals he earned.

Calling the colonel a member of "the greatest generation," Jimenez said the Soldiers of that era were not thinking about awards, but about duty.

"I know that young lieutenant was not thinking about personal safety but about duty, honor and country and never leaving a fallen comrade," Jimenez said of Mehosky.

"The members of that generation went on one-way tours; not for a year or eighteen months, but to go, win a war and come home," Jimenez said. "And they quietly came home and went about their business, and even today they are reluctant to say anything."

"It is a great honor that your father revealed to you a small image of his past,"

he told Ivan.

He commended Cook for the efforts made on the colonel's behalf.

"You have worked so hard to reward a self-deserving Soldier," he said. "I'm sure his Family and friends know you have gone above and beyond on his behalf."

"I am honored to represent the men and women of the Maryland Army National Guard in presenting this award to you," he told the colonel. "I present it on behalf of all of us of the U.S. Army that you so proudly served."

In addition, MDARNG Col. Charles Schultz, commander of the Army Aviation Support Facility located in the Edgewood Area, shared the story of a World War II general who presented his troops as proof of his credentials to a surrendering German general.

"Looking at those gathered here today, there are no final credentials than your Family," Schultz said.

"I propose a toast to the credentials of the Family for Colonel Mehosky and his wife."

Mike Mehosky, the colonel's grandson, added that his 11 year-old son read his grandfather's book last year and that the both of them thought it was "amazing."

"The book was a blessing not only for our Family but for future generations that will benefit from what he shared," he said.

Col. Mehosky, who sat quietly with his wife Yvonne, throughout the ceremony, said that he was "simply overwhelmed" by all the efforts made on his behalf.

"I certainly appreciate all the hard work and I certainly appreciate your presence here today," he said.

Irvin Clancy

Clancy served with the 175th Infantry Regiment, MDARNG during World War II and landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day with the 29th Infantry Division. For his action and bravery under fire, Clancy received the Silver Star Medal more than 50 years later in 2007.

Clancy is the father of retired APG employees Linda Hartling of the former U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, now the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Jan Spellman, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

A Purple Heart recipient as well, Clancy said he was told while he was hospitalized that he had been put in for the Silver Star but that "nothing ever came of it."

Hartling said that the Family was honored to take part in the ceremony and thanked her brother and sister for compiling the documents needed for her father's award, which she said came in the mail.

"A gathering like this is nice," she said, noting that her father met Ivan Mehosky when he was teaching at Harford Community College. "We were very happy to be invited by the Family to share in this special occasion."

Magazine seeking nominations for top military spouse

American Forces Press Service

Service members who think their spouses are top-notch now have the opportunity to tell the world why everyone else should agree.

Military Spouse magazine is accepting nominations for its 2009 Military Spouse of the Year award, which recognizes military spouses' myriad contributions.

"This award is MSM's opportunity to thank all military spouses for their invaluable contributions, in addition to recognizing them for the challenges they overcome every day," said Babette Maxwell, the magazine's co-founder and executive editor.

The Military Spouse of the Year honoree represents millions of unsung heroes who maintain the home front, give selflessly to their communities and provide support to the nation's troops, Maxwell said. Often, these spouses also have full-time jobs and raise Families, she noted.

Nominees must be the spouse of a current member of the U.S. armed forces. Criteria for selecting the winner include impact on community change, volunteerism, personal sacrifice, education and career pursuits and other military spouse-related efforts.

Nominations can be made online at www.msoy.milspouse.com and must be received by Oct. 8.

After judges review all submissions and select 10 finalists from each military service, Military Spouse magazine and its readers will select the 2009 Military Spouse of the Year. The winner will be announced nationally in the June issue.

He or she also will be honored during the second annual Military Spouse of the Year awards ceremony in conjunction with National Military Spouse Appreciation Week in May.

The winner will make additional public appearances, write a monthly column to appear in Military Spouse magazine, and maintain a blog during his or her reign, which will last through May 2010.

Last year's award generated hundreds of nominations from across the country, culminating in the selection of Army wife Chelle Brewer as Military Spouse of the Year for 2008.

The Military Spouse of the Year award is sponsored by USAA, a financial services company that serves military members and their Families.

"The reason USAA exists is to help military Families with their financial security and the peace of mind that brings — especially to the military spouse who shoulders so much responsibility," said Joe Robles, USAA's chief executive officer and a retired major general. "I know I couldn't have done what I did for the Army if my wife, Patty, hadn't taken care of everything else."

"Being the title sponsor of this award is a natural for us. We feel honored to honor military spouses," he added.

USAA is a corporate supporter of America Supports You, a Defense Department program connecting citizens and companies with service members and their Families serving at home and abroad.

(Editor's note: From a USAA news release.)

South Dakota offers veterans bonus

State of South Dakota

The state of South Dakota is paying a veterans bonus of up to \$500 to certain military personnel who were legal residents of the state for no less than six months immediately preceding entry into the armed forces, who are currently on active duty or were honorably discharged from the armed forces, and who served on active duty during one, or both of the following periods. Individuals who have previously received the maximum \$500 payment, for one or both of these periods, are not eligible for any additional payment.

For service between the dates of Jan. 1, 1993, through Sept. 10, 2001, payment will be made only to those who served in an imminent danger pay area, or were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, Southwest Asia Service medal, Kosovo campaign medal or any other United States campaign or service medal awarded for participation in combat operations against hostile forces. All active duty between the dates of Sept. 11, 2001, through a date to be determined, qualifies for a bonus

payment.

This program also allows payment for active duty during the Desert Storm/ Shield dates of Aug. 2, 1990, to March 3, 1991, and for individuals who served in an imminent danger pay area during the dates of March 4, 1991, to Dec. 31, 1992. Individuals who have previously received the maximum of \$500 for these dates are not eligible for any additional payment.

Veterans with qualifying service before Dec. 31, 1992, and after Jan. 1, 1993, may receive two separate bonuses of up to \$500 each.

Applicants living outside of South Dakota may obtain an application by e-mail at john.fette@state.sd.us. Include service member's branch of the military and dates of service. Service members may also request an application and instructions by writing SD Veterans Bonus, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or by calling 605-773-7251.

Applicants living in South Dakota may apply through the nearest County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer.

Correction Notice

The *APG News* would like to apologize for an incorrect phone number published in the Sept. 18 issue in the article about Respite care.

Families that are requesting respite services will be given an appointment with Patricia Harper, Army Communi-

ty Service Exceptional Family Member program manager.

Respite applications can be picked up and returned to ACS building 2754 Rodman Road, room 108.

For more information call 410-278-2420 or e-mail patricia.harper@us.army.mil

APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: Just who are these warriors?



Photo by SFC LEK MATEO, ARMY NEWS

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
*APG Wildlife and Marine Law
Enforcement Division*

One of the “perks” of this job is the opportunity to meet and talk with folks.

It seems like every now and then I’ll turn the corner and run into somebody special. In 42 years I’ve shared moments with all kinds of people from all walks of life -- from foreign diplomats to moonshiners, from lumberjacks to astronauts.

Take for instance the other night after work. I had just finished shooting a couple of rounds of skeet with some friends of mine down at Edgewood [Area] and was on my way home when, just as I was turning the corner, I noticed what looked like the silhouette of a person standing out on the end of the fishing pier. Being a sneaky game warden, I thought to myself “what the heck” I’ll walk out and check his fishing license before calling it a day.

It was one of “those” evenings, if you know what I mean.

The sun had already set but the sky in the west was awesome; not even a ripple marred the mirror surface of the Gunpowder River.

As I slowly made my way down the pier, I could make out the outline of a figure out on the end, sitting on one of the pilings. The person seemed intent on gazing out across the water. It was a young Soldier, and to tell you the truth, he was so engrossed; I don’t think he even heard me as I walked up.

“Hey, how ya doin’?” I asked, noticing that he didn’t seem to be fishing, as there were no fishing rods anywhere.

Turning around, it was obvious that I had startled him. Standing up quickly, he came to parade rest with his hands clasped behind his back. Eyeing my uniform and badge, “Okay, I guess,” he stuttered. “Am I in trouble, or something?”

“Nah,” I answered. “I’m just out taking a walk, enjoying the evening.”

“Yeah, me too,” he respond-

ed. “Ain’t never seen the ocean before.”

“Well,” I laughed, “it ain’t really the ocean, but its close. The tides come up this far, but this is the Gunpowder River, and out beyond that point over there is the Chesapeake Bay.”

“It’s as close as I’ve ever been to the ocean,” he said, turning around and looking out over the water.

“Where you from?” I asked.

“Kansas,” he replied. “A little wide place in the road called Smolan, just south of Salina.”

“The land of OZ, huh? Boy, you’re a fer piece from home. Whatcha doin’ here?”

“Going to school. I’m in the National Guard back home, and I’m here going to school. The word is, we’re gonna be shipping out to either Iraq or Afghanistan this winter.”

It was hard for me to tell in the near darkness, but he didn’t seem very old. Taking a seat on one of the pilings across from him I said, “Sure is nice tonight, ain’t it? Fall’s a’coming.”

“Yeah,” he answered, “and it kinda makes me feel bad too. Sorta left Pa a little short-handed, what with the chores and all. If ‘n I was back home, we’d be getting the combine ready to cut the corn.” Pausing for a moment, he continued, “You a police officer?”

“Game warden.”

“Oh,” he said, “I seen the badge. Thought maybe you was a police officer. I got a first cousin back home that’s a state trooper. I been talking to him about putting in an application, but you gotta be twenty-one and I’m too young; plus you gotta have a college degree. That’s one of the reasons I joined the Guard, so’s I could go to college. It was just too much to ask Pa to pay for it, so I figured I’d join the Guard. That way I’d be able to get some of my college stuff done.”

“Is that right? Sounds like you got a plan? How long you been outta high school?” I asked.

“Graduated in May; joined the Guard right after I got out. Guess it sorta runs in the Family; Pa spent some time over in Vietnam, and Grandpa was in the Korean War. After what happened on 9-11, I figured I outta try and do my part,” he said.

“So how old are you?” I asked.

“Be eighteen in November,” he replied.

As we sat there on the river bank talking, (actually it was more him talking and me listening) about “back home” on the farm. After a bit he quit talking and turned back to the water and said, “Pa’s got a lot on his mind these days, what with the farm and all. His health ain’t all that good.”

“What’s your pa think about you goin’ off to the war?” I asked.

“Well, he worries a lot of the time, mostly about me I guess.

Since my mother died, it’s just been him and me, you know. It’s been pretty tough on him, but Pa figures either we fight ‘em over there, or else we’re gonna fight ‘em here. Says you gotta stand up for your country.”

After awhile, he turned back toward me, “Well,” he said, “I guess I outta get going. The sergeant gets mighty upset if we’re late. It’s sure been good talking to you.”

As we got to the end of the pier, “Need a ride back up to the barracks?” I asked.

“Nah, but thanks anyway,” he said, “I’ll just walk.”

“What’s your name?”

“Mike,” he said, walking away.

I missed his last name, but I thought long and hard about him as I was heading up I-95, thinking perhaps I should have offered to take him out and buy him a beer, until it suddenly dawned on me that he wasn’t yet old enough to drink a beer. I found myself thinking about this country of ours and wondering, “Who are these kids that I see everyday in uniform, and what brought them here? What is it about this country of ours that prompts a seventeen year old, someone who has never even seen the ocean, to say, “I figure I outta try and do my part.”

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that underneath all the bickering and self-doubt we hear each and every night on national television, and all the rhetoric put forth daily by the politicians, the America of today is still the “land of the free and the home of the brave.”

As Winston Churchill said of the men and women in uniform, “seldom have so few done so much for so many.”

May God bless Mike and his Pa back in Kansas, and may God bless America!